

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

Montaluce Winery  
Dahlonaga, GA  
October 27, 2011

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at Montaluce Winery in Dahlonaga, Georgia. The meeting was co-hosted by Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonaga.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Norton stated that there is a personnel item that the Council needs to discuss. Kevin Tallant made a motion that the Council would enter into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 for the purpose of discussing this matter.

Following the Executive Session, J.B. Jones made the motion to end the Closed Executive Session and that the Council Meeting reconvened and at that time, a Resolution be adopted authorizing the Vice Chairman to execute the affidavit stating that the subject matter of the closed portion of the Council Meeting was with the exception by OCGA 50-14-4(b). The motion was seconded by Jim Conley and vote carried.

It was reported that during the Closed Executive Session it was recommended by the Council to make a salary adjustment for the Executive Director as discussed. A motion was made by J.B. Jones and seconded by John Raber to proceed with this action. Motion passed unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Norton welcomed everyone to Montaluce and to Lumpkin County. He explained that with this being an election year, he needed to excuse himself to attend a political forum that was being held at the College. He turned the meeting over to Council Secretary L.J. Harrison.

Secretary Harrison introduced Lumpkin County Commission Chairman, Dr. John Raber for introductions. Dr. Raber welcomed everyone to Lumpkin County and the beautiful Montaluce Winery. He recognized from Lumpkin County, Commissioners Clarence Grindle, Bill Scott, and Tim Bowden; Dr. Raber's guest, Juanita Tipton; Representative Amos Amerson and his wife, Anne; Amy Booker, Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce; and Jay Markwalker, COC

Tourism Director. Dr. Raber recognized City of Dahlonge's Mayor, Gary McCullough for introductions from the City. Mayor McCullough recognized City Councilmen Gerald Lord and Sam Norton (who had to leave); and City Manager Bill Lewis.

#### INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Council Member Kevin Tallant recognized special guests Kathy Papa, DCA Representative; Patrick Bell, Forsyth County Commissioner; and Mark Hill, Moreland Altobelli Inc. and formally with Atlanta Regional Commission.

#### INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Harrison asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the September 29, 2011. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Peter Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

#### REPORTS

##### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that after the August Council Meeting the Council of Chief Elected Officials (CCEO) approved the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). This Board is made up of City/County and private sector representatives from all 13 counties for which it serves. Mr. Lewis recognized the members of the WIB Board. On Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> the WIB Board held its first meeting and elected Ms. Andrea Gibby, Mayor of Young Harris as Chairman and Will Wade, Chairman of Dawson County Board of Education as Vice Chairman. He also recognized WIA Director John Phillips and thanked him for the great job that he has done.

Mr. Lewis informed the Council that Ms. Stephanie Harmon had resigned and would be moving back to her hometown of Boone, NC. He commended her for the excellent job she has done on our transportation project.

Many were able to attend the reception at the Community House honoring the late Mayor of Cornelia, Margaret Ballard. The family and the City of Cornelia were so appreciative of our support. She was a great public servant and will be missed by us all.

The CEDS Committee will be meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at North Georgia College. David Sargent heads up our Economic Development Department and plays a major role in developing our CEDS document annually.

The Finance/Audit Committee met on October 25<sup>th</sup> to review the FY11 GMRC Audit. Mr. Lewis stated that this year's audit is a clean audit and GMREDC is not mentioned in the audit.

An Audit is being performed for the WIB for the period of July 1 – September 30, 2011. This is the period of time since the last yearly audit was completed and the time that the GMRC took control of the program. The GMRC will be held accountable from October 1, 2011.

Sam Norton, Co-Chairman of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), will speak to the Council at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting on how we can help to get RLF loans out into our region.

### Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash position as of September 30, 2011 showed a bank balance of \$104,092, receivables of \$221,079 and payables of \$241,224, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$83,947. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011 indicated income of \$141,715, expenses of \$282,624, accounts receivable of \$140,909, with 14 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Will Wade made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried.

### PROGRAM

Ms. Tracy Webb, Event Sales Coordinator and Maria Peterson, Winemaker for Montaluce spoke to the group on the history, the vineyards, wine making, events that are offered, and real estate opportunities at Montaluce.

### OLD BUSINESS

### Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chairman, reminded everyone of the GMRC Annual Meeting to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Once again this year we are doing a "Country Christmas" theme. The reception will start at 5:00 p.m. and the dinner and awards will start at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 again this year. Our entertainment for this year has performed on Nashville Star. She encouraged all Council Members to secure at least one sponsor and for the cities and counties to bring a gift basket that would showcase their region that would be given away as a door prize.

### Workforce Investment Program Report

Mr. Mike Berg, CCEO Chairman, reported that there was good attendance at the first WIB Meeting. Several things were accomplished such as electing officers, appointing committees, planning a learning retreat, and deciding on a meeting schedule. The WIB will meet quarterly and their meeting will be prior to the GMRC Council Meetings. The WIB reports to the CCEOs, but the CCEOs will meet on an as needed basis for signatures, etc.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Review Process for FY11 GMRC Audit

The FY11 GMRC Audit has been reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee and previously in the Executive Committee meeting, it was approved and recommended to be passed on to the Full Council for their review. The Audit will be emailed to the Council on Friday morning for their review prior to the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. This Audit is a clean audit with no findings. Mr. Lewis commended Becky Sievers for her hard work this year with the audit and budget.

### Voting for GMRC Council Member of the Year

Each year the Council Members vote for the GMRC Council Member of the Year. The voting will be handled a little differently this year. We will email the ballots to the Council Members on Monday and ask that they be returned by November 10<sup>th</sup>. Each Council Member will vote on five people with the first name receiving five points, second receiving four points, etc. After the deadline the ballots will be tallied to determine the recipient. Council Members that are eligible served from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. This award should be awarded to the Council Member who gave the most to the Regional Commission's success during this period of time.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris reported that the November Council Meeting will be held at the new Union County Community Center. The contractors have been working diligently to have this \$5.4 million Community Center open and ready for our meeting. This facility will house the offices of the Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, a conference center, and the golf shop. He stated that they are excited about have everyone in Union County and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Lewis reminded everyone of the GARC Annual Conference to be held on November 9-11, 2011 at the King and Prince Resort in St. Simons.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Sam Norton, Vice, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary

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ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2011-2012**

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COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/28/11	8/25/11	9/29/11	10/27/11	11/17/11	12/2/11	1/26/12	2/23/12	3/29/12	4/26/12	5/31/12	6/28/12
BANKS	Sammy Reece	P	P	A	A								
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	A								
	Leslie George	A	P	A	P								
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	A	P	P								
	Calvin Byrd	P	A	P	P								
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P								
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P	P	A								
	Ralph Perry	P	A	A	A								
	James McCoy	P	A	P	P								
FRANKLIN	Angela Whidby	P	P	P	P								
	Ralph Owens	P	A	P	P								
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P								
HABERSHAM	Lee Mulkey	P	P	P	P								
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	A								
	Todd Pealock	(N)P	P	A	P								
HALL	Vacant												
	George Wangemann	P	A	A	P								
	Deborah Mack	A	P	A	A								
HART	Bill Myers	P	P	P	P								
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P	A								
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	A								
LUMPKIN	Dr. John Raber	P	P	A	P								
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P	P								
	J.E. Jones	P	A	A	P								

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RABUN	Stan Darnell	(N)A	A	P	P								
	Debbie Chisholm	P	P	P	P								
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P								
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P	P								
	Ron Seib	A	P	P	P								
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P								
TOWNS	Bill Kendall			P	P (R)								
	Joan Crothers	P	A	A	P								
	David Stovall*	P	P	P	A								
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	P	P								
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	P								
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	A	P								
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P (R)	P								
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P								
	Bill Black	P	A	P	P								
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P								
	Paul Kreager	P	P	A	P								
	Will Wade	P	P	P	P								
LT. GOV. APPT.	Kevin Tallant	P	P	P	P								
	Peter Hill	P(N)	P	P	P								
SPEAKER APPT.													

P = PRESENT      A = ABSENT      \* = REPRESENTED      V = VACANCY      E = EXCUSED      (N) = NEW MEMBER

\* Chairman  
\*\* Vice Chairman  
\*\*\* Secretary